

## REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 19, 2006. Claims 1, 3 to 7, 9 to 13 and 15 to 33 are in the application, with Claims 2, 8 and 14 having been cancelled herein. Claims 1, 7, 9 to 13 and 15 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies and thoughtful treatment afforded to Applicant's representatives during the September 20, 2006 telephonic interview with the Examiner. Applicant submits that the forgoing amendments and following remarks accurately reflect the substance of the interview.

Turning to the substance of the Office Action, Claims 1 to 8, 11 to 19 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,570,417 (Byers) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,862,203 (Wulkan) or U.S. Patent No. 6,853,636 (Merchant), and Claims 9, 10, 20, 21 and 23 to 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Byers in view of Wulkan or Merchant and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,597,903 (Dahm). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

During the interview, the Examiner tentatively indicated that the foregoing amendments would overcome the outstanding rejections. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,  
California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to  
our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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